

# *A Little Bit of Background On Our Treasure Gems Annual*

BY RICH HOPKINS

In 2021 I celebrated my sixtieth year of activity in APA. I praise The Almighty that I still am able both physically and mentally to crank out stuff like this page for the *2022 Treasure Gems*.



Frankly it was written and intended for the 2021 edition, but during several months last year I fought a major series of problems with my Monotype casting equipment. Since I did not solve the problems quickly, this page was delayed a full year. Fact is, I was pondering how much longer I would be able to continue my hobby work. The good news is that the machine is back on line. The type on this leaf shows that I have managed to get 'er going once again.

I wish to look back and focus on the various group publications which preceded *Treasure Gems* in APA.

I have kept lousy records so I have relied on David Greer (APA 397) for assistance in this matter. As best I can tell, the first collective project was spearheaded by Ray Hiscox (APA 103) titled *Home Shop Printers*. I have in hand a leaf I printed around 1961 (the year I joined APA) which serves as evidence the publication did exist. Finished size was 3x6 inches and each contributor submitted a 6x6 signature (or more). Ray received the sigs, folded and saddle stitched them and round-cornered the finished booklets. Of course that required that one's submission had text on the front two pages un-related to the back two pages. Otherwise, continuity would be broken as the four-page sigs were gathered into a booklet. He continued doing issues (I think they came quarterly) for a couple years. After he passed away, Bruce Towne (long-time APA mailer—

APA 191) took over in 1967 and renamed the project *Hobby Printers' Scrapbook*. Bruce put out nine issues. Never more than ten members contributed to any given issue. No. 9, the final issue, appeared in December 1969. Twenty-three members participated in the nine issues. These early cooperative efforts never had sanction of the APA Board of Directors.\*

Fred Liddle (APA 336) initiated a project in 1971 titled the *1971 Yearbook*. It lasted only one issue because Fred retired to Florida, leaving his shop in New York. Marge Clelland (APA 319), then APA president, sought to continue the project and convinced Bill Greer (APA 363) to take it on. Bill changed the name to *TreasureGems* after words in a poem by his friend Kurt Volk. Bill continued to coordinate the project for about ten years. By this time the finished size of the booklet was 4½x6 inches. Generally each participant has printed a single leaf. Copies were ring bound. Subsequent leaders have served similar terms. They have been Bill Greer, Herb Harnish (APA 482), Dave Greer (Bill's son—APA 397), Ernie Blitzler (APA 649), and Bob Magill (APA 668), who is presently heading up the project.

In more recent years I have been an active participant. Earlier I was often distracted by other concerns and missed several issues. I find reading my old submissions a good reflection on my own development in the hobby, and encourage all new members to climb aboard for the next issue.



Hill & Dale Private Press and Typefoundry  
Richard L. Hopkins, *Proprietor*  
169 Oak Grove Rd., Terra Alta, WV 26764

\*This specific info is from *TreasureGems* 4 in a leaf printed by Lilian & Parker Worley (APA 278198). Most other details came from Dave Greer, who first published the material in a 1997 booklet titled *Treasure Gems Facts In A Nutshell*.